



Disease Prevention Guide

For Backyard Bird Owners

Disease **prevention** means doing everything you can to protect your birds against disease. When contaminated birds, people and materials are moved from one location to another, diseases are easily spread. ***In other words, when diseased birds are moved, the disease moves too.*** However, if you follow these basic steps and make them a daily habit, you will greatly decrease the risk of carrying disease to your birds.

- ## **Do not** share birds, equipment or feed with other bird owners.
- ## Avoid contact with other people's birds; they may be diseased, but not look sick.
- ## Isolate your birds from visitors, your neighbor's birds, and even wild birds; those birds may be carrying disease.
- ## Isolate new birds for 7 to 21 days away from other birds and observe them for symptoms of illness. Isolate birds when bringing them home from game bird events or exhibits.
- ## Before and after having contact with birds, thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water; completely scrub and remove all debris from your footwear with soap and water, giving particular attention to the soles; and spray with a disinfectant.
- ## Consider using a disinfectant foot bath with a scrub mat at the entrance to the bird area.
- ## When buying feed and supplies, clean and disinfect all items (including your vehicle) taken to your property, to protect your birds against any possible contamination.
- ## Maintaining a clean and sanitary environment for your birds is very important; remove feces, feathers and spilled-feed on a daily basis.
- ## Dedicate a set(s) of easily-cleaned clothing and footwear, specifically designated for bird activities.
- ## Proper disposal of dead birds is important. Dispose by burial, incineration or at a landfill. Check on local ordinances for acceptable disposal methods.
- ## Keep insects and rodents away from your birds as they may carry disease.

Disinfectants and Foot Baths

- ## Prepare disinfectants regularly and change the foot baths when they are dirty.
- ## Thoroughly clean and scrub objects before applying disinfectants.
- ## Apply disinfectants using brushes, sponges and spray units or use a foot bath. Allow adequate contact time (according to manufacturer's instructions).
- ## Carefully read and follow the manufacturer's directions and take all precautions.
- ## Dispose of soiled disinfectant in accordance with local regulations.

Examples of Disinfectants:

1. Roccal®: Mix ½ fluid oz. of Roccal® per gallon of water.
2. Nolvasan® (chlorhexidine diacetate 2%): Mix 3 fluid oz. of Nolvasan® per gallon of water.
3. Household bleach (sodium hypochlorite 6%): Mix ¾ cup of household bleach per gallon of water.
4. Lysol® spray (for footwear)
5. Purell® hand pump (for hand disinfection)

Disclaimer: Trade names used in this publication do not constitute a guarantee, warranty or endorsement of the products. The Avian Health Program bears no responsibility for liability resulting from the use of the described products. These procedures are not guaranteed to prevent highly contagious diseases from affecting your birds; however they will reduce risks.

To report sick birds call:

1-800-491-1899 or 1-909-947-4462